

**APPENDIX 1**  
HB495  
PROJECT QUALIFICATION CHECKLIST

**Date** July 30, 2009

**Person Reviewing** Pam Boggs

**Project Location:** Russell Gates Memorial FAS is along the Blackfoot River 36 miles east of Bonner on Highway 200. It is located within Township 15 North, Range 14 West, Section 25 in Missoula County.

**Description of Proposed Work:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes to add a parking lot and gravel boat ramp, reclaiming the pioneered ramp providing better separation of day use and camping and to stabilize a section of eroding riverbank on the Blackfoot River at Russell Gates Memorial FAS.

The following checklist is intended to be a guide for determining whether a proposed development or improvement is of enough significance to fall under HB 495 rules. (Please check all that apply and comment as necessary.)

- [Y] A. New roadway or trail built over undisturbed land?**  
Comments: No new roadways or trails for preferred Alternative C. Alternative B adds several hundred feet of new roadway.
- [ ] B. New building construction (buildings <100 sf and vault latrines exempt)?**  
Comments: No new buildings.
- [Y] C. Any excavation of 20 c.y. or greater?**  
Comments: Some excavation to stabilize the eroding riverbank.
- [Y] D. New parking lots built over undisturbed land or expansion of existing lot that increases parking capacity by 25% or more?**  
Comments: There are only four parking spaces at the FAS, although because of the high use at the site, visitors parallel park along the road way and around the trees, damaging vegetation, so a designated parking lot will be developed to accommodate up to 30 parking spaces.
- [Y] E. Any new shoreline alteration that exceeds a doublewide boat ramp or handicapped fishing station?**  
Comments: Stabilize approximately 180 linear yards of the bank of the Blackfoot River plus add a new gravel ramp and reclaim the pioneered ramp areas.
- [Y] F. Any new construction into lakes, reservoirs, or streams?**  
Comments: Proposed stabilization of approximately 150 linear yards of the Blackfoot River bank.
- [ ] G. Any new construction in an area with National Registry quality cultural artifacts (as determined by State Historical Preservation Office)?**  
Comments: See Appendix 3 for SHPO concurrence letter. If artifacts are discovered in areas excavated, work will cease and SHPO will be contacted.
- [ ] H. Any new above ground utility lines?**  
Comments: No new utility lines.
- [ ] I. Any increase or decrease in campsites of 25% or more of an existing number of campsites?**  
Comments: Currently there are 11 campsites and one will be removed for the new boat ramp, but another will be added to keep 11 campsites total.
- [Y] J. Proposed project significantly changes the existing features or use pattern; including effects of a series of individual projects?**  
Comments: The proposed work will provide a better separation of day use and campsites and the new parking lot will eliminate the haphazard indiscriminate parking at the site.

If any of the above are checked, HB 495 rules apply to this proposed work and should be documented on the MEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST. Refer to MEPA/HB495 Cross Reference Summary for further assistance.

## Appendix 2

### SENSITIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS IN THE RUSSELL GATES MEMORIAL FAS AREA

#### Species of Concern Terms and Definitions

A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) element occurrence database (<http://nris.mt.gov>) indicates no known occurrences of federally listed threatened, endangered, or proposed threatened or endangered plant species in the proposed project site although Howell's Gumweed was identified near this area. The search did indicate the project area is within habitat for Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Great Gray Owl, Lewis's Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Westslope Cutthroat Trout, Bull Trout, Gray Wolf, Fisher, Wolverine and Canada Lynx. Please see the next page for more information on these species.

**Montana Species of Concern.** The term "**Species of Concern**" includes taxa that are at-risk or potentially at-risk due to rarity, restricted distribution, habitat loss, and/or other factors. The term also encompasses species that have a special designation by organizations or land management agencies in Montana, including: Bureau of Land Management Special Status and Watch species; U.S. Forest Service Sensitive and Watch species; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Threatened, Endangered and Candidate species.

#### ▼ **Status Ranks (Global and State)**

The international network of Natural Heritage Programs employs a standardized ranking system to denote global (**G** -- range-wide) and state status (**S**) (Nature Serve 2003). Species are assigned numeric ranks ranging from 1 (critically imperiled) to 5 (demonstrably secure), reflecting the relative degree to which they are "at-risk". Rank definitions are given below. A number of factors are considered in assigning ranks -- the number, size and distribution of known "occurrences" or populations, population trends (if known), habitat sensitivity, and threat. Factors in a species' life history that make it especially vulnerable are also considered (e.g., dependence on a specific pollinator).

#### **Status Ranks**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>G1</b> <b>S1</b>	At high risk because of extremely limited and/or rapidly declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, making it highly vulnerable to global extinction or extirpation in the state.
<b>G2</b> <b>S2</b>	At risk because of very limited and/or declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, making it vulnerable to global extinction or extirpation in the state.
<b>G3</b> <b>S3</b>	Potentially at risk because of limited and/or declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, even though it may be abundant in some areas.
<b>G4</b> <b>S4</b>	Uncommon but not rare (although it may be rare in parts of its range), and usually widespread. Apparently not vulnerable in most of its range, but possibly cause for long-term concern.
<b>G5</b> <b>S5</b>	Common, widespread, and abundant (although it may be rare in parts of its range). Not vulnerable in most of its range.

# SENSITIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS IN THE VICINITY OF RUSSELL GATES MEMORIAL FAS ALONG THE BLACKFOOT RIVER

## 1. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (Bald Eagle)

### Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S3**

Global: **G5**

### Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: **DM**

U.S. Forest Service: **Threatened**

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

FWP CFWCS Tier: 1

Six Element Occurrence data reported of bald eagle in the proximate area of this parcel. Bald eagles receive special protection under the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

## 2. *Falco peregrinus* (Peregrine Falcon)

### Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S3B**

Global: **G4**

### Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: **DM**

U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

FWP CFWCS Tier: 2

No Element Occurrence of the peregrine falcon was reported in the proximate area of this parcel.

## 3. *Strix nebulosa* (Great Gray Owl)

### Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S3**

Global: **G5**

### Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

FWP CFWCS Tier: 2

Two Element Occurrence data reported of great gray owls in 1991 and 1994 in the proximate area, to the northwest of this parcel.

## 4. *Melanerpes lewis* (Lewis's Woodpecker)

### Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2B**

Global: **G4**

### Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management:

FWP CFWCS Tier: 2

One Element Occurrence data reported in 1993 of Lewis's woodpecker in the proximate area, to the northeast of this parcel.

## 5. *Picoides arcticus* (Black-backed Woodpecker)

### Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S3**

Global: **G5**

### Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

FWP CFWCS Tier: 1

Two Element Occurrence data reported of black-backed woodpecker in 1993 in the proximate area, to the north and northeast of this parcel.

# SENSITIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS IN THE VICINITY OF RUSSELL GATES MEMORIAL FAS ALONG THE BLACKFOOT RIVER (continued)

## 6. *Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisi* (Westslope Cutthroat Trout)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2**

Global: **G4T3**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

FWP CFWCS Tier: 1

No Element Occurrence data reported of westslope cutthroat trout in the proximate area of this parcel.

## 7 *Salvelinus confluentus* (Bull Trout)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2**

Global: **G3**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: **LT**

U.S. Forest Service: **Threatened**

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Special Status**

FWP CFWCS Tier: 1

No Element Occurrence data reported of bull trout in the proximate area of this parcel.

## 8 *Canis lupus* (Gray Wolf)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S3**

Global: **G4**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: **DM**

U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

FWP CFWCS Tier: 1

One Element Occurrence data reported of wolves in the proximate area of this parcel to the north of the Blackfoot River.

## 9. *Martes pennanti* (Fisher)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S3**

Global: **G5**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

FWP CFWCS Tier: 2

The Swan and Garnet Mountain Ranges have relatively continuous habitat for this species. The Element Occurrence data has 1 observation for 2005 for the fisher southeast of this parcel.

## 10. *Gulo gulo* (Wolverine)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S3**

Global: **G4**

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

FWP CFWCS Tier: 2

The Swan and Garnet Mountain Ranges have relatively continuous habitat for this species. The Element Occurrence data has 1 observation record for 2007 for the wolverine southwest of this parcel.

# SENSITIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS IN THE VICINITY OF RUSSELL GATES MEMORIAL FAS ALONG THE BLACKFOOT RIVER (continued)

## 11. *Lynx canadensis* (Canada Lynx)

### Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S3**

Global: **G5**

### Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: **LT**

U.S. Forest Service: **Threatened**

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Special Status**

FWP CFWCS Tier: 1

The Swan and Garnet mountain ranges have relatively continuous habitat for this species. The Element Occurrence shows one observation for 2006 of Canada lynx northeast of this parcel.

## 12. *Grindelia howellii* (Howell's Gumweed)

### Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: **S2S3**

Global: **G3**

### Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service: **Sensitive**

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: **Sensitive**

FWP CFWCS Tier:

Vascular plant in the Ovando valley. Last observation date 1986, but not on this parcel. This plant is a species of concern in Montana but is not listed as a threatened species.

Species of Concern are native taxa that are at-risk due to declining population trends, threats to their habitats, restricted distribution, and/or other factors. Designation as a Montana Species of Concern or Potential Species of Concern is based on the Montana Status Rank, and is not a statutory or regulatory classification. Rather, these designations provide information that helps resource managers make proactive decisions regarding species conservation and data collection priorities.

Information courtesy of Montana Natural Heritage Program.

*NOTE: This appendix is information provided by the Montana Natural Heritage Program from their database of the Natural Resources Information System. FWP Biologists have addressed the species identified in this appendix in this EA in PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST in section 5. Fish/Wildlife. The proposed work should improve the habitat for species in the area. FWP R2 Biologists have no concerns with the project impacting wildlife in the area and have been actively involved with the design of the project to ensure the protection of the eagle nest in the area. The FWP Biologists note it is unlikely that most of these species pass through this parcel with the proximity of the river to the highway, the high visitor use and the proximity to the Blackfoot Clearwater Wildlife Management Area adjacent to the FAS, so it is not likely habitat. This stretch of the Blackfoot is not considered critical fish habitat and the fish species identified in this appendix above may pass through this reach of river.*

Appendix 3  
Russell Gates Memorial FAS SHPO Concurrence



2004090801  
**Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks**

1420 East Sixth Avenue  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, Montana 59620-0701

Mark Baumler  
State Historical Preservation Officer  
State Historical Preservation Office  
1410 8th Avenue  
Helena, Montana 59620

*RUSSELL GATES*  
**RE: ~~Scotty Brown Bridge~~ Fishing Access Site**

September 3, 2004

Dear Mr. Baumler:

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is proposing improvements at the Russell Gates Fishing Access Site, formerly known as the County Line FAS, in Missoula County. The proposed site improvements are located at approximately T15N R13W Section 25. Through previous consultation with your staff, further evaluation was requested. Enclosed is a copy of the report entitled *Results of Archaeological Testing at the Proposed Russell Gates Fishing Access Site Expansion*, prepared by GCM Services, Inc. for your review and files. The report indicates no apparent cultural resources in the test pit and, therefore, a low likelihood of negative impact to cultural resources. We feel that the project should proceed as proposed. Please review and provide any comments or concerns regarding the project.

Sincerely,

Bardell Mangum, RLA  
Assistant Cultural Resources Coordinator  
Design & Construction Bureau  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Encl.: report; CRABS form

cc: File 786A.2

**RECEIVED**  
SEP 09 2004  
DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION  
DEPT. OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

**CONCUR**  
**MONTANA SHPO**  
9/8/04 SIGNED

*.SYM  
.FWP - PARKS  
.Russell Gates  
Fishing Access  
RAMP (24MD197)*

## Appendix 4

# TOURISM REPORT

### MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA) & MCA 23-1-110

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has initiated the review process as mandated by MCA 23-1-110 and the Montana Environmental Policy Act in its consideration of the project described below. As part of the review process, input and comments are being solicited. Please complete the project name and project description portions and submit this form to:

Carol Crockett, Visitor Services Manager  
Travel Montana-Department of Commerce  
301 S. Park Ave.  
Helena, MT 59601

**Project Name:** Russell Gates Memorial Fishing Access Site Development

**Project Description:**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes major maintenance at the Russell Gates Memorial FAS including adding up to 30 parking spaces, a new concrete vault latrine, a new gravel boat ramp as in addition to stabilizing the river bank. This site is a 41-acre parcel along the Blackfoot River in Missoula County just off Highway 200 with 10 primitive campsites, a pioneered boat ramp, 2 vault latrines and limited parking. The existing boat ramp will be reclaimed with an improved gravel boat ramp added in a better location. Bank stabilization should protect the gravel road accessing the campsites along the riverbank. The proposed work will provide better separation of the day use area and the designated camping area as well as accommodate the numbers of users of the site.

1. Would this site development project have an impact on the tourism economy?  
NO YES If YES, briefly describe:

Yes, as described, the project has the potential to positively impact the tourism and recreation industry economy.

2. Does this impending improvement alter the quality or quantity of recreation/tourism opportunities and settings?  
NO YES If YES, briefly describe:

Yes, as described, the project has the potential to improve the quality and quantity of tourism and recreational opportunities.

Signature Carol Crockett, Visitor Services Manager Date 7/31/09

# Appendix 5

## MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

### BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR FISHING ACCESS SITES

Updated May 1, 2008

#### I. ROADS

##### A. Road Planning and location

1. Minimize the number of roads constructed at the FAS through comprehensive road planning, recognizing foreseeable future uses.
  - a. Use existing roads, unless use of such roads would cause or aggravate an erosion problem.
2. Fit the road to the topography by locating roads on natural benches and following natural contours. Avoid long, steep road grades and narrow canyons.
3. Locate roads on stable geology, including well-drained soils and rock formations that tend to dip into the slope. Avoid slumps and slide-prone areas characterized by steep slopes, highly weathered bedrock, clay beds, concave slopes, hummocky topography, and rock layers that dip parallel to the slope. Avoid wet areas, including seeps, wetlands, wet meadows, and natural drainage channels.
4. Minimize the number of stream crossings.
  - a. Choose stable stream crossing sites. "Stable" refers to streambanks with erosion-resistant materials and in hydrologically safe spots.

##### B. Road Design

1. Design roads to the minimum standard necessary to accommodate anticipated use and equipment. The need for higher engineering standards can be alleviated through proper road-use management. "Standard" refers to road width.
2. Design roads to minimize disruption of natural drainage patterns. Vary road grades to reduce concentrated flow in road drainage ditches, culverts, and on fill slopes and road surfaces.

##### C. Drainage from Road Surface

1. Provide adequate drainage from the surface of all permanent and temporary roads. Use outsloped, insloped or crowned roads, installing proper drainage features. Space road drainage features so peak flow on road surface or in ditches will not exceed their capacity.
  - a. Outsloped roads provide means of dispersing water in a low-energy flow from the road surface. Outsloped roads are appropriate when fill slopes are stable, drainage will not flow directly into stream channels, and transportation safety can be met.
  - b. For insloped roads, plan ditch gradients steep enough, generally greater than 2%, but less than 8%, to prevent sediment deposition and ditch erosion. The steeper gradients may be suitable for more stable soils; use the lower gradients for less stable soils.
  - c. Design and install road surface drainage features at adequate spacing to control erosion; steeper gradients require more frequent drainage features. Properly constructed drain dips can be an economical method of road surface drainage. Construct drain dips deep enough into the sub-grade so that traffic will not obliterate them.
2. For ditch relief/culverts, construct stable catch basins at stable angles. Protect the inflow end of cross-drain culverts from plugging and armor if in erodible soil. Skewing ditch relief culverts 20 to 30 degrees toward the inflow from the ditch will improve inlet efficiency.



3. Provide energy dissipators (rock piles, slash, log chunks, etc.) where necessary to reduce erosion at outlet of drainage features. Cross-drains, culverts, water bars, dips, and other drainage structures should not discharge onto erodible soils or fill slopes without outfall protection.
4. Route road drainage through adequate filtration zones, or other sediment-settling structures. Install road drainage features above stream crossings to route discharge into filtration zones before entering a stream.

D. Construction/Reconstruction

1. Stabilize erodible, exposed soils by seeding, compacting, riprapping, benching, mulching, or other suitable means.
2. At the toe of potentially erodible fill slopes, particularly near stream channels, pile slash in a row parallel to the road to trap sediment. When done concurrently with road construction, this is one method to effectively control sediment movement and it also provides an economical way of disposing of roadway slash. Limit the height, width and length of these "slash filter windrows" so not to impede wildlife movement. Sediment fabric fences or other methods may be used if effective.
3. Construct cut and fill slopes at stable angles to prevent sloughing and subsequent erosion.
4. Avoid incorporating potentially unstable woody debris in the fill portion of the road prism. Where possible, leave existing rooted trees or shrubs at the toe of the fill slope to stabilize the fill.
5. Place debris, overburden, and other waste materials associated with construction and maintenance activities in a location to avoid entry into streams. Include these waste areas in soil stabilization planning for the road.
6. When using existing roads, reconstruct only to the extent necessary to provide adequate drainage and safety; avoid disturbing stable road surfaces. Consider abandoning existing roads when their use would aggravate erosion.

E. Road Maintenance

1. Grade road surfaces only as often as necessary to maintain a stable running surface and to retain the original surface drainage.
2. Maintain erosion control features through periodic inspection and maintenance, including cleaning dips and cross-drains, repairing ditches, marking culvert inlets to aid in location, and clearing debris from culverts.
3. Avoid cutting the toe of cut slopes when grading roads, pulling ditches, or plowing snow.
4. Avoid using roads during wet periods if such use would likely damage the road drainage features. Consider gates, barricades or signs to limit use of roads during wet periods.

II. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES (parking areas, campsites, trails, ramps, restrooms)

A. Site Design

1. Design a site that best fits the topography, soil type, and stream character, while minimizing soil disturbance and economically accomplishing recreational objectives. Keep roads and parking lots at least 50 feet from water; if closer, mitigate with vegetative buffers as necessary.
2. Locate foot trails to avoid concentrating runoff and provide breaks in grade as needed. Locate trails and parking areas away from natural drainage systems and divert runoff to stable areas. Limit the grade of trails on unstable, saturated, highly erosive, or easily compacted soils
3. Scale the number of boat ramps, campsites, parking areas, bathroom facilities, etc. to be commensurate with existing and anticipated needs. Facilities should not invite such use that natural features will be degraded.
4. Provide adequate barriers to minimize off-road vehicle use.

B. Maintenance: Soil Disturbance and Drainage

1. Maintenance operations minimize soil disturbance around parking lots, swimming areas and campsites, through proper placement and dispersal of such facilities or by reseeding disturbed ground. Drainage from such facilities should be promoted through proper grading.
2. Maintain adequate drainage for ramps by keeping side drains functional or by maintaining drainage of road surface above ramps or by crowning (on natural surfaces).
3. Maintain adequate drainage for trails. Use mitigating measures, such as water bars, wood chips, and grass seeding, to reduce erosion on trails.
4. When roads are abandoned during reconstruction or to implement site-control, they must be reseeded and provided with adequate drainage so that periodic maintenance is not required.

III. RAMPS AND STREAM CROSSINGS

A. Legal Requirements

1. Relevant permits must be obtained prior to building bridges across streams or boat ramps. Such permits include the SPA 124 permit, the COE 404 permit, and the DNRC Floodplain Development Permit.

B. Design Considerations

1. Placement of boat ramp should be such that boats can load and unload with out difficulty and the notch in the bank where the ramp was placed does not encourage bank erosion. Extensions of boat ramps beyond the natural bank can also encourage erosion.
2. Adjust the road grade or provide drainage features (e.g. rubber flaps) to reduce the concentration of road drainage to stream crossings and boat ramps. Direct drainage flow through an adequate filtration zone and away from the ramp or crossing through the use of gravel side-drains, crowning (on natural surfaces) or 30-degree angled grooves on concrete ramps.
3. Avoid unimproved stream crossings on permanent streams. On ephemeral streams, when a culvert or bridge is not feasible, locate drive-throughs on a stable, rocky portion of the stream channel.
4. Unimproved (non-concrete) ramps should only be used when the native soils are sufficiently gravelly or rocky to withstand the use at the site and to resist erosion.

C. Installation of Stream Crossings and Ramps

1. Minimize stream channel disturbances and related sediment problems during construction of road and installation of stream crossing structures. Do not place erodible material into stream channels. Remove stockpiled material from high water zones. Locate temporary construction bypass roads in locations where the stream course will have a minimal disturbance. Time the construction activities to protect fisheries and water quality.
2. Where ramps enter the stream channel, they should follow the natural streambed in order to avoid changing stream hydraulics and to optimize use of boat trailers.
3. Use culverts with a minimum diameter of 15 inches for permanent stream crossings and cross drains. Proper sizing of culverts may dictate a larger pipe and should be based on a 50-year flow recurrence interval. Install culverts to conform to the natural streambed and slope on all perennial streams and on intermittent streams that support fish or that provide seasonal fish passage. Place culverts slightly below normal stream grade to avoid culvert outfall barriers. Do not alter stream channels upstream from culverts, unless necessary to protect fill or to prevent culvert blockage. Armor the inlet and/or outlet with rock or other suitable material where needed.
4. Prevent erosion of boat ramps and the affected streambank through proper placement (so as to not catch the stream current) and hardening (riprap or erosion resistant woody vegetation).
5. Maintain a 1-foot minimum cover for culverts 18-36 inches in diameter, and a cover of one-third diameter for larger culverts to prevent crushing by traffic.

## Appendix 6

### Draft FWP Preliminary Concept Plan for Upstream Site at Russell Gates Memorial FAS (Preferred Alternative C).

